

Special Meeting–October 19, 2021

The Fairmont Board of Commissioners held a special meeting on Tuesday, October 19, 2021, at 5:00 p.m. in the Fairmont-South Robeson Heritage Center with Mayor Pro Tempore J.J. McCree presiding. Commissioners present were J.J. McCree, Heather Seibles, Felecia McLean, Charles Kemp, Terry Evans, and Monte McCallum. Mayor Charles Townsend was absent. Staff present included Town Manager Hank Raper, Town Attorney Jessica Scott, Town Clerk Jenny Larson, Recreation Director Mickey Williamson, Police Chief Jon Edwards, and Public Works Director Ronnie Seals. Others in attendance included Katie Fountain, Larry McGougin, Pauline Campbell, Hugh Alderson, Audrey McNeese, Jessica Horne, and several citizens.

Call to Order

Mayor Pro Tempore J.J. McCree called the meeting to order at 5:08 p.m.

Joint Meeting with the Robeson County Public Library Board.

The purpose of the meeting was to meet with the Robeson County Public Library Board to discuss the possibility of relocating the Hector MacLean library from 106 South Main Street to the old youth center/post office location across the street at 105 South Main Street.

Robeson County Public Library Board Chairman Larry McGougin, Library Director Katie Fountain, Fairmont Librarian Audrey McNeese and Youth Services Director Hugh Alderson all expressed their support for the library relocation. The move would allow the library to expand services by increasing the number of computers and books as well as add more youth programs. The Fairmont Board of Commissioners also voiced their excitement for the project.

Town Manager Hank Raper and Library Director Katie Fountain led both boards on a tour of the vacant youth center building. Plans for the building include a computer lab, creative rooms for children, study rooms and expanded book collection. The computer lab could support 20 computers, which would make Fairmont the largest in the Robeson County library system.

Adjournment

After the tour, a motion was made and seconded to adjourn the meeting at 5:55 p.m.

Jennifer H. Larson, NCCMC
Town Clerk

Regular Meeting–October 19, 2021

The Fairmont Board of Commissioners held their regular meeting on Tuesday, October 19, 2021, at 6:00 p.m. in the Fairmont-South Robeson Heritage Center with Mayor Charles Townsend presiding. Commissioners present were J.J. McCree, Heather Seibles, Felecia McLean, Charles Kemp, Terry Evans, and Monte McCallum. Staff present included Town Manager Hank Raper, Town Attorney Jessica Scott, Town Clerk Jenny Larson, Recreation Director Mickey Williamson, Police Chief Jon Edwards, and Public Works Director Ronnie Seals. Others in attendance included Jamacia Campbell, Katie Fountain, Pauline Campbell, Jessica Horne, and several citizens.

Call to Order, Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance

Mayor Charles Townsend called the meeting to order at 6:08 p.m. and gave the invocation, which was followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Public Comment Period/Citizens Appearance

Jamacia Campbell – Candidate for Robeson County Clerk of Superior Court

Ms. Jamacia Campbell introduced herself as a candidate for Robeson County Clerk of Superior Court in 2022.

Approval of Agenda

Commissioner Evans made a motion to approve the agenda with the addition of Library Partnership under New Business. Commissioner McLean seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Consent Agenda

Upon motion by Commissioner McLean and seconded by Commissioner Evans, it was unanimously voted to adopt the following consent agenda items:

- a. Approval of Minutes – Regular Meeting, September 21, 2021
- b. Approval of Grant Administration and Engineering Contracts with LKC Engineering for CDBG-I No. 15-I-3158.

New Business

Library Partnership

Commissioner Terry Evans made a motion to move forward with the Robeson County Public Library partnership to begin efforts to relocate the Hector MacLean Public Library to the town's former youth center/post office across the street. Commissioner Charles Kemp seconded the motion and it passed unanimously. Town Manager Hank Raper stated the next steps would be to secure additional funding to renovate the building and ask the Robeson County Commissioners for assistance.

Ordinance 21-200 – Declaring a road closure for the Fairmont Holiday on Main Twilight Christmas Parade.

The NCDOT requires a town to adopt an ordinance whenever it is going to close a state highway for a parade or festival. Commissioner Kemp made a motion to adopt Ordinance 21-200 – declaring a road closure for the Fairmont Holiday on Main Twilight Christmas Parade on December 3, 2021. Commissioner Evans seconded the motion and it passed unanimously. A signed copy of this ordinance is hereby incorporate by reference and made a part of these minutes.

Resolution 21-10 – Approving CDBG Compliance Plans/Ordinances for FY 2015 and FY 2020 CDBG Infrastructure Projects.

Town Manager Hank Raper asked the board to collectively adopt the following Compliance Plans/Ordinances to be executed and utilized during the administration of the FY2015/2020 CDBG Infrastructure Grant Program:

- Equal Employment Opportunity Policy and Plan
- Procurement Policy and Plan
- Section 3 Action Plan
- Language Access Policy and Plan
- Section 504 Compliance Officer/Grievance Procedure
- Residential Anti-Displacement and Relocation Assistance Plan
- Code of Conduct/Conflict of Interest Policy
- Citizen Participation Plan
- Excessive Force Policy
- Project Budget Ordinance 21-201 - CDBG 15-I-3158
- Project Budget Ordinance 21-202 - CDBG 20-I-3608

Commissioner McCallum made a motion to approve the Resolution 21-10 – Approving CDBG Compliance Plans/Ordinances for FY 2015 and FY 2020 CDBG Infrastructure Projects. Commissioner McLean seconded the motion and it passed unanimously. Copies of the resolution, plans and project budget ordinances are hereby incorporated by reference and made a part of these minutes.

Old Business

Ordinance 21-203 –Directing the Inspector to remove and demolish the property located at 201 North Pine Street as unfit for human habitation.

Town Attorney Jessica Scott has been working with Code Enforcement Officer Mickey Williamson on the property located at 201 North Pine Street. The town has been trying to demolish the property since 2016 since it was badly damaged by fire and uninhabitable.

Commissioner Kemp made a motion to adopt Ordinance 21-203 – Directing the Inspector to remove and demolish the property located at 201 North Pine Street, Parcel# 3002-01-014, as unfit for human habitation and directing that a notice be placed thereon that the same may not be occupied. He read the following ordinance into the record:

**ORDINANCE 21-203
DIRECTING THE INSPECTOR TO REMOVE AND DEMOLISH PROPERTY AS UNFIT FOR
HUMAN HABITATION AND DIRECTING THAT A NOTICE BE PLACED THEREON THAT
THE SAME MAY NOT BE OCCUPIED:**

**201 N. Pine Street, Fairmont, NC 28340
Parcel ID #3002-01-014**

WHEREAS, the Board of Commissioners for the Town of Fairmont finds that the dwelling described herein is unfit for human habitation under the provisions of Chapter 152: Minimum Housing Standards, and that all of the procedures of the Code of Ordinances for the Town of Fairmont, North Carolina, have been complied with;

WHEREAS, the dwelling should be removed or demolished, as directed by the Inspector, and should be placarded by placing thereon a notice prohibiting the use for human habitation;

WHEREAS, the owner of the dwelling has been given a reasonable opportunity to bring the dwelling up to the standards of the Minimum Housing Standards pursuant to an Order issued by the Inspector on or about June 23, 2021, and the owner has failed to comply with the lawful Order of the Inspector to repair or demolish the property within the time therein described; and

WHEREAS, N.C.G.S. 160D-1201 through 160D-1212, and Sections 152.30 of the Code of Ordinances, Town of Fairmont, North Carolina, empowers the Town of Fairmont to have its inspector to remove or demolish a dwelling when an Order of the Inspector has not been complied with;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED by the Board of Commissioners for the Town of Fairmont that:

Section 1. The Inspector is hereby authorized and directed to place a placard containing the legend:

“This building is unfit for human habitation; the use or occupation of this building for human habitation is prohibited and unlawful.”

on the building located at 201 N. Pine Street, Fairmont, NC 28340.

Section 2. The Inspector is hereby authorized and directed to proceed to vacate the dwelling of all occupants and to remove or demolish the dwelling, said dwelling being located at 201 N. Pine Street, Fairmont, North Carolina, owned by Stacey Oxendine, in accordance with the Order of the Inspector issued pursuant to Title XV, Chapter 152, Section 152.30 of the Code of Ordinances, Town of Fairmont, North Carolina.

Section 3. (a) The cost of removal or demolition shall constitute a lien against the real property upon which the cost was incurred. The lien shall be filed, have the same priority, and be collected as a lien for special assessment provided in Article 10 of N.C.G.S. Chapter 160A.

(b) Upon completion of the required removal or demolition, the Inspector shall sell the materials of the dwelling and credit the proceeds against the cost of removal or demolition. The Inspector shall certify the remaining balance to the Tax Collector. If a surplus remains after sale of the materials and satisfaction of the cost of removal or demolition, the Inspector shall deposit the surplus in the Superior Court where it shall be secured and disbursed in the manner provided by N.C.G.S. 160D-1203.

Section 4. It shall be unlawful for any person to remove or cause to be removed the placard from any building to which it is affixed. It shall likewise be unlawful for any person to occupy or to permit the occupancy of any building therein declared to be unfit for human habitation.

Section 5. This Ordinance shall become effective upon its adoption.

Commissioner McCree seconded the motion and it passed with a vote of 4 to 3 as follows:

For: Commissioners Kemp, McCree, Seibles and Mayor Townsend
Against: Commissioners Evans, McCallum and McLean

A signed copy of this ordinance is hereby incorporated by reference and made a part of these minutes.

Department Head Input

Justin Elk, Assistant Fire Chief

Assistant Fire Chief Justin Elk suggested the fire department could dispose of some abandoned homes as training exercises as a cost saving measure.

Jon Edwards, Police Chief

Police Chief Jon Edwards encouraged everyone to come out to the Trunk or Treat event on Sunday, October 31 from 6:00 to 7:30 p.m. in the Town Hall parking lot.

Mayor/Commissioner Input

The commissioners thanked everyone for coming to the meeting.

Announcements

Sunday, October 31 – Drive Thru Trunk or Treat, 6:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m., Town Hall parking lot.

Tuesday, November 9, 2021 – Strategic Plan meeting, 6:00 p.m., Fairmont-South Robeson Heritage Center.

Tuesday, November 16 – Regular Town Board meeting, 6:00 p.m., Fairmont-South Robeson Heritage Center.

Adjournment

There being no further business, a motion was made and seconded to adjourn the meeting at 6:41 p.m.

Jennifer H. Larson, NCCMC
Town Clerk